CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1	1. An image forming device comprising:
2	an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium external
3	of the image forming device;
1	imaging circuitry configured to use an imaging consumable to form hard
5	images;

a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable; and processing circuitry coupled with the sensor and configured to generate a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable and to synchronize with another image forming device to control a timing of a communication of the message externally of the image forming device using the interface.

- 2. The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to detect a predetermined moment in time to synchronize with the another image forming device.
- 3. The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.
- 4. The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium comprising a packet-switched network, and the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the message comprising an e-mail message.
- 5. The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to generate the message comprising a status message including one status.

1	6.	The	device	iņ	accordance	with	claim	1	wherein	the pro	ocessing
2	circuitry is c	onfigu	red to	gen	erate the me	ssage	comp	risi	ng a com	posite	message
3	including a p	luralit	y of sta	tuse	es correspon	ding to	o at lea	st	one imagi	ng cons	sumable.

7. An image forming device comprising:

an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium external of the image forming device;

imaging circuitry configured to use an imaging consumable to form hard images;

a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable; and processing circuitry coupled with the sensor and configured to generate a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable and to communicate the message externally of the image forming device using the interface at a predetermined moment in time.

- 8. The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.
- 9. The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium comprising a packet-switched network, and the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the message comprising an e-mail message.
- 10. The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to generate the message comprising a composite message including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least one imaging consumable.

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forming device.

1	11. An image forming device comprising:
2	an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium;
3	imaging circuitry configured to consume a plurality of imaging consumables
4	to form hard images;
5	a plurality of sensors configured to monitor respective statuses of the
6	imaging consumables; and
7	processing circuitry coupled with the sensors and configured to generate a
8	composite message indicating statuses of the imaging consumables, and to forward
9	the composite message to the interface for communication externally of the image

- 12. The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to synchronize with another image forming device to control the timing of the communication of the composite message.
- 13. The device in accordance with claim 12 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to send the composite message at a predetermined moment in time to synchronize with the another image forming device.
- 14. The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.
- 15. The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium comprising a packetswitched network, and the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the composite message comprising an e-mail message.
- 16. The device in accordance with claim 11 further comprising storage circuitry and the processing circuitry is configured to process signals from the sensors and to forward statuses responsive to the signals to the storage circuitry for storage.

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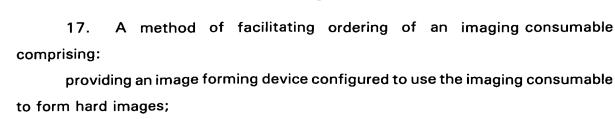
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monitoring a status of the imaging consumable;

generating a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable responsive to the monitoring;

synchronizing with another image forming device; and

communicating the message externally of the image forming device responsive to the synchronizing.

- 18. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the synchronizing comprises detecting a predetermined moment in time.
- 19. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the providing comprises providing the image forming device configured to print hard images upon media.
- 20. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the communicating comprises communicating the message comprising an e-mail message.
- 1 21. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the generating 2 comprises generating the message comprising a composite message including a 3 plurality of statuses corresponding to at least one imaging consumable.



	22.	Α	method	of	facilitating	ordering	of	an	imaging	consumable
compi	rising:									
providing an image forming device configured to use the imaging consumable										
to for	m hard	ima	ages;							•

monitoring a status of the imaging consumable;

generating a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable responsive to the monitoring; and

communicating the message externally of the image forming device at a predetermined moment in time.

- 23. The method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the communicating comprises communicating the message comprising an e-mail message.
- 24. The method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the generating comprises generating the message comprising a composite message including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least one imaging consumable.